

49th Legislative District



Senator Don

Carlson

Pre-2003 session survey and town hall meeting notice

Dear Friends,

The 2002 elections are now history. You and many other voters have made your decisions on various local, state and federal races, as well as several ballot measures. To those who took the time to vote, thanks for exercising this important and often-overlooked right. There is no better way to celebrate democracy than by voting.

While your job as voters is finished, my job as your state senator will soon become busy again. **On December 10, I will co-host a 49th District town hall meeting with Rep. Bill Fromhold, Rep. Val Ogden and Rep.-elect Jim Moeller. This two-hour public meeting will begin at 7 p.m. at the Arbor Ridge Retirement and Assisted Living facility, located at 9501 NE Hazel Dell Ave. in Vancouver.** We'll discuss what we see as the key issues of the upcoming 2003 legislative session in Olympia. We'll answer your questions and listen to your comments and suggestions. Please join us. We want to hear your ideas on how we can better serve you and our state.

The session itself begins January 13. It always seems like there are tough issues facing the Legislature, and next year will be no different. For the past two years, the state operating budget situation has steadily worsened. There now is at least a \$2 billion shortfall between available revenue and state spending needs. Obviously, tough, painful choices must be made. To balance the budget, do we raise taxes, cut spending (and where) or do both?

Olympia mailing address

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Washington continues to be ranked first or second nationally in unemployment, and there isn't much good news on the horizon. The Legislature must find ways to improve the state's jobs and business climate so our economy can finally rebound and more people can get back to work and support their families.

With Washington voters rejecting Referendum 51 (which, among other things, would have raised the state gas tax), the Legislature will try to come up with a different plan to address the state's growing transportation problems. Our higher education system is bursting at the seams due to greater enrollment, but the state budget crisis is forcing students to pay more out of their own pocket. Health care continues to be a growing concern, as many Washington residents can't gain access to health care coverage or can't afford prescription drugs.

It's clear that Washington faces several tough challenges. However, my job as your legislator is to help address these issues as best I can. One way for me to do that is to know how you stand on the issues. Please take a few minutes to fill out and return this survey to me. I appreciate your help.

If you want to discuss any state issues with me, or if you need assistance in dealing with a problem involving a state government agency, please feel free to contact me on the toll-free Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000. My staff and I are ready to help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Don Carlson".

DON CARLSON

Please take a few minutes to fill out this survey. When you're finished, please affix a stamp, tape the survey shut and mail it to my Olympia office.**Thanks.**

Shade Circles like this ● Not like this ☑ ☒
Please do not write inside the margins.

Voter 1 **Voter 2**

1. How do you think the Legislature should address the current \$2 billion budget/revenue shortfall?

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | A. Raise taxes |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | B. Reduce bureaucracy |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | C. Make across-the-board spending cuts in state services |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | D. Make targeted cuts in certain state services |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | E. All of the above |

Use this space to suggest specific ways to balance the state operating budget: _____

2. Should the governor delay the Department of Labor and Industries' proposed 40 percent average increase on worker's compensation premiums until the Legislature can review the rates and consider other alternatives, such as reduced benefits?

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | A. Yes |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | B. No |

3. Since Washington voters defeated Referendum 51, what do you think the Legislature should do to address the state's transportation problems? (Check all appropriate boxes.)

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | A. Pass a less-expensive proposal and send it back to the voters |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | B. Pass a different proposal without sending it back to the voters |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | C. Allow other regions of the state, such as Southwest Washington, to propose and vote on their own transportation funding packages |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | D. Eliminate prevailing wage requirements and allow contracting out to the private sector |

4. What type of a gas tax increase would you support?

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | A. 1-3 cents a gallon |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | B. 4-6 cents a gallon |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | C. 7-9 cents a gallon |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | D. No increase at all |

5. Do you support lowering school levy requirements from the current 60 percent supermajority to a simple majority?

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | A. Yes |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | B. Levies only, not bonds |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | C. No |

6. In 20 years, should there be a four-year college located in Clark County?

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | A. Yes |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | B. No |

7. Should there be a greater blending of Clark College and WSU-Vancouver offerings?

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | A. Yes |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | B. No |

8. Should the WSU extension facility on 78th Street be moved to the WSU-Vancouver campus, allowing for multiuse development of the 78th Street acreage?

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | A. Yes |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | B. No |

9. What should be done to reduce health care costs to employers and individuals? What should be done to address other problems of access to affordable health care insurance? Please rank the following options in order of those you would accept and support in your own health insurance plan or with regard to your use of health care services, with "1" being the one you would most like to see happen.

- A.** I would be willing to accept access to fewer health benefits for lower monthly insurance costs
- B.** I would be willing to pay a percentage of the cost of service at the time the service is received in trade for overall lower monthly insurance costs
- C.** I would accept some limitations on the array of health care providers (such as massage therapists and orthopedists) I can access in exchange for lower health care costs
- D.** I would be willing to allow my employer to determine which benefits are covered in the health insurance they provide. This option would include reducing or repealing current legislatively mandated coverage in health insurance coverage. The goal would be to reduce costs and increase the variety of health plans available to employers for their employees.
- E.** I would be willing to encourage primary care doctors and specialists to stay in our state and contract to provide medical services under all insurance plans, and provide incentives for higher reimbursement to these providers rather than increasing my health and medical benefits/coverage

Voter 1

Voter 2

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1 2 3 4 5

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10. What should the state do to address increasing cost of prescription drugs? (Please rank 1 to 4, with 1 being most important to you)

- A.** Limit my choice of drugs to the most cost-effective medicines and create incentives for doctors to prescribe these more cost-effective medicines
- B.** Require my health provider to prescribe the less-expensive medically equivalent drug, with cost savings passed along to me
- C.** Create a program to increase the number of low- and moderate-income seniors, without prescription drug coverage, who are eligible for prescription drug coverage under Medicaid
- D.** Work with the federal government to seek a joint resolution

Voter 1

Voter 2

1 2 3 4

1 2 3 4

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One other question: Are you interested in receiving biweekly e-mail updates during the legislative session? If you are, please provide your e-mail address below. Thanks.

Thanks for completing the survey!

Return mail panel. Tape top edge before mailing.



Place
First-Class
Postage
Here

Sen. Don Carlson
PO Box 40449
Olympia, WA 98504-0449



Please remember to attend the 49th District pre-session town hall meeting!

On December 10, Reps. Bill Fromhold and Val Ogden, Rep.-elect Jim Moeller, and I will co-host a town hall meeting to discuss the issues that will face the Legislature next session. We'll be there to answer your questions and hear your comments and suggestions. I hope to see you there.

December 10
7 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Arbor Ridge Retirement
and Assisted Living facility
9501 NE Hazel Dell Ave.
Vancouver

PRSRT STD.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Olympia WA
Permit #133



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49th LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT
WASHINGTON STATE SENATOR